

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/761,297

Examiner

Sisay Yacob

Applicant(s)

SUN, BEN-CHANG

Art Unit

2612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to November 27, 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-11, 13-16 and 22-26.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

1 This communication is in response to applicant's Appeal Brief, which was filed November 27, 2007.

2 Arguments to claims 1-26 have been entered and made of record in the application of Sun for "User programmable input apparatus with a keyboard" filed on January 22, 2004.

Claims 1, 2-11, 13-16 and 22-26 are as previously presented.

Claims 12 and 17-21 are as previously canceled.

Claims 1-11, 13-16 and 22-26 are pending.

RESPONSE TO ARGUMENTS

3 Applicant's arguments with respect to rejected claims 1-11, 13-16 and 22-26 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The application is in a condition for allowance, as it is evident by applicant arguments. The pending claims 1-11, 13-16 and 22-26 are allowable.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

4 The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The combined prior arts of record fail to disclose, teach or suggest the limitation " a user programmable input apparatus with a keyboard, comprising: a plurality of keys disposed on the keyboard for input operations, a microprocessor coupled to the plurality of keys for receiving an input therefrom, a nonvolatile memory coupled to the microprocessor and programmable by operating the plurality of keys; and a transmission arrangement connected to the microprocessor for outputting data external to the keyboard, wherein the plurality of keys includes a set of special control keys programmable to simulate a cursor control device, the set of special control keys being programmable to have a different report rate from that of the other of the plurality of keys to coincide with requirements of a cursor control device."

5 Also, " a method for operating a user programmable input apparatus with a keyboard, the keyboard having a microprocessor, a nonvolatile memory and a transmission arrangement, the keyboard having a plurality of keys and at least one special key, the method comprising the steps of: detecting a trigger signal of a key of the keyboard, storing a first data into the nonvolatile memory when the trigger signal is a programming signal, transmitting a normal data corresponding to the trigger signal external to the keyboard by the transmission arrangement when the trigger signal is a normal keying signal, reading a second data

corresponding to a programmed key from the nonvolatile memory and/or executing a function corresponding to the second data when the trigger signal matches the programmed key, and programming the special key to simulate a cursor control device and changing a reporting rate of the special key to be different from that of other of the plurality of keys to coincide with requirements of the cursor control device.”

CONCLUSION

6 Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sisay Yacob whose telephone number is (571) 272-8562. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM.

7 If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffery A. Hofsass can be reached on (571) 272-2981. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

8 Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through

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Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Sisay Yacob

S-Y

12/17/2007

Davetta W. Goins

**DAVETTA W. GOINS
PRIMARY EXAMINER**